

HEALTH

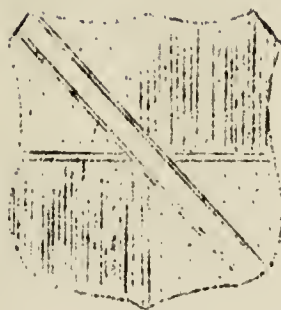
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NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the year 1951.

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R. KENNETH HAY, M.D., D.P.H.,

J.S. TOWNLEY, M.S.I.A., A.M. Inst.P.C.



Stapeley House,  
Nantwich.

11th July, 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the Nantwich Rural District Council:-  
Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Nantwich Rural District **for the year 1951.**

During the year the Medical Officer of Health - Dr. A. Lennox Thorburn resigned his appointment, the post becoming vacant on the 30th September, 1951.

Having taken up my appointment on the 1st July, 1952, the compilation of this report has been the work of your Chief Sanitary Inspector - Mr. John S. Townley to whom all credit is due.

From the statistical review of the district, on the figures supplied by the Registrar General, it will be noted that the population of the Nantwich Rural area is given as 27,380 as compared with 26,590 the previous year.

It will be ~~seen~~ that the total number of live births and deaths was 414 and 19 respectively, compared with 412 and 17 during the year 1950, a slight increase in both births and deaths for the year is therefore noted.

With reference to the infant mortality rate it will be noted that there would appear to be a substantial increase in the figure for the past year. In this report I would make the observation that the number of cases with which we are dealing is small, and that the slightest variation when expressed as a percentage or rate tends to give a rather misleading picture, and the figure given cannot therefore be regarded as of great statistical significance. This is particularly noticeable in respect to the illegitimate infant mortality rate.

Despite the somewhat apathetic approach in some quarters to protective inoculation against Diphtheria, it is gratifying to note that there were no cases notified in the district during the year under review. The statistics of infectious diseases show that there was a marked increase in the number of cases of measles among children during the first year at school. Reference must also be made to the outbreak of Sonne dysentery which occurred, but I would point out that this outbreak was not confined solely to this district but that the outbreak in general affected many neighbouring counties.

We are greatly indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health and his staff and to the Medical Officers of Health of neighbouring districts for their supervision and advice on all matters during the period the post of Medical Officer of Health for this area was vacant.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. KENNETH HAY.

Medical Officer of Health.



## NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100,823
Population...	....	...	...	...	...	...	27,380
Number of inhabited houses end of 1951 (according to rate books)	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,085
Rateable Value (1st April 1952)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£125,788
Sum represented by a penny rate (estimated 1952/53)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£ 496

### PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer: Dr. A. Lennox Thorburn, M.D., D.P.H. (Resigned 30.9.51) Post vacant until 1.7.52, filled by Dr. R. Kenneth Hay, M.D., D.P.H.  
Chief Sanitary Inspector: John S. Townley, M.S.I.A., A.M.Inst. P.C.  
First Additional Sanitary Inspector: John Craven, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.  
Second Additional Sanitary Inspector: T.H. Aldrich, M.S.I.A. (Resigned 31.7.51) Vacancy to be filled by Mr. J.P. Moulton on return from National Service)  
Sanitary Engineer and Surveyor: H. Crabtree, M.I.MUN.E.

### SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The District is situated in the south-east of Cheshire. It adjoins the county of Salop in the south and the county of Stafford in the east, and forms part of the alluvial plain of Cheshire. It surrounds the Borough of Crewe and Urban District of Nantwich. Whilst the area is predominantly agricultural a large proportion of the population is to be found in those parishes contiguous to Crewe and Nantwich in which towns they find their employment. The main source of employment in the Rural District is agriculture, and industries allied with it. These take the form of milk and milk product factories, corn mills, and agricultural engineering; the latter having increased locally with the mechanisation of farming. There is one clothing factory which in the main employs female labour. There is no unemployment in the area.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births:	Total	Male	Female
	414	219	195
Legitimate.....	392	209	183
Illegitimate.....	22	10	12

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 15.12, the figure for the whole of England being 15.5.

Still Births	Total	Male	Female
.....	15	8	7

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births).. 15.67

Deaths.....	Total	Male	Female
	354	197	157
Death Rate per 1,000 of the resident population, 12.93 the figure for the whole of England being 12.5.			

Deaths from Puerperal causes...NIL.

### DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All infants per 1,000 live births.....45.9

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births... 40.82

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live  
births.....136.3

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	46	27	19
Deaths from Measles(all ages)	-	-	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	-	-	-

Deaths: The total number of deaths of infants under one year of age (males and females) was 19, of these 11 were under four weeks of age.

There was no cause of unusual or excessive mortality.

#### VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

This service is administered by the Divisional Health Committee. For the year under review separate records have not been kept for this district, but it is hoped that a detailed statistical analysis for this Rural Area will be available in next years report.

#### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Public Health Laboratory Service, directed by the Medical Research Council on behalf of the Ministry of Health, is meeting all needs for bacteriological investigations, but does not undertake the chemical analysis of water.

For local convenience samples of ice cream and milk and medical specimens are examined at the Chester City Hospital Laboratory, and use is also made of the laboratories at Manchester and Birkenhead.

Messrs. Melling and Ardern, the County Analysts, Manchester are employed for chemical analysis of water.

#### AMBULANCE AND TRANSPORT SERVICES.

These services are administered by the Divisional Health Committee, and continued to meet the needs of the area.

#### NURSING SERVICES.

These services are also administered by the Divisional Health Committee.

#### CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The Ophthalmic clinic at the School Clinic at Nantwich is available to nursing mothers and to all school children, and children under five.

An Ante-Natal Clinic is under construction at The Dowery, Nantwich, and is nearing completion.

The Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic is held at the Crewe Memorial Hospital.

The paediatric Clinic is held at The Stalbridge Road and Ludford Street School Clinics.

The Orthopaedic Clinic functions in conjunction with the Orthopaedic Out-Patient Department of the Oswestry Hospital and is held at the L.M.S. Rooms, Nantwich Road, Crewe.

A Clinic where Dental Treatment for mothers, school children, and children under five years, is held at the Barker Street Welfare Centre, Nantwich.



## HOSPITALS.

The Barony Hospital at Nantwich serves the Rural and Urban Districts and also Crewe to some extent.

The former Isolation Hospital at Worleston has been converted, and now serves as an annexe for convalescent cases. Isolation of infectious diseases from the Rural Area is taking place at the Crewe Isolation Hospital.

There is an Agricultural and Industrial Colony for residential treatment of Tuberculous cases capable of some work, situated in the District. This institution is at Wrenbury Hall and was presented to the Cheshire County Council by the British Red Cross and St. John Ambulance Association.

## MORTUARY.

Mortuary arrangements made with the South Cheshire Hospital Management Committee at the Barony Hospital, to serve the needs of the Rural District, have worked satisfactorily.

## DISINFECTION.

Arrangements made with the South Cheshire Hospital Management Committee for this work to be done at the Crewe Memorial Hospital have worked satisfactorily.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Informal action was taken in two cases during the year.

## RIVERS AND STREAM POLLUTION.

No action became necessary during the year.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There are approximately 3,075 pail closets at residential premises in the district which are now receiving a cleansing service each week the remainder being on water carriage.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector which deals with this matter is attached hereto.

## SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Periodical inspections have been made and no infringements found.

## CAMPING SITES.

There is one approved camping site in the district at Church Minshull. When applications for licences under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for individual caravans on isolated sites are made, each case is considered by the Council on its own merits. Licences with respect to five moveable dwellings are in force.

## SWIMMING BATHS.

There are no public or private swimming baths or pools in this area.

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

No tangible progress has been made with the negotiations between the Crewe Corporation and this Council on the subject of the proposed Joint Sewerage Scheme.

A decision has been made to submit a scheme to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for the construction of Sewage Disposal Works in Bradeley Road, Haslington, and steps have been taken to acquire the necessary land for that purpose.

In connection with the proposed sewerage schemes for Larch Avenue, Basford, and the village of Weston, the Ministry has held local enquiries, but largely due to the National position the Council have been instructed to postpone the Basford Scheme. It is hoped that the Weston Scheme will be given more favourable consideration and that the work will be commenced sometime in 1952.

The scheme for draining the "Peacock" area of Willaston has been almost completed and it is hoped that early in the new year it will be possible to improve the County School sanitary arrangements by having the premises connected to the Public sewerage system.

After many delays and variations the sewerage scheme for the Council's Housing site and properties near the Schools at Buerton has been approved by the Ministry and it is expected the work will be put in hand at an early date.

With the development of the Wistaston Green Housing site in mind, the Council have entered into a contract for the construction of the necessary roads and sewers which will give facilities for the erection of approximately 150 houses. Work on this scheme will be commenced about March next year.

The necessary road and sewage disposal arrangements required for the Housing extensions at Barthomley, Church Minshull, Hankelow, Weston and Wybunbury, have been carried out during the year.

Facilities for the improvement of the drainage and sanitary conditions of the properties in Cobb's Lane, Hough, have been provided by the laying of a new drain from the Council Houses to Newcastle Road.

#### HOUSING.

During the year some 69 houses have been completed of which 13 were erected by Private Enterprise.

The details of Council Houses completed are:-

Acton	4	
Barthomley	8	
Bunbury	8	
Hankelow	3	
Shavington	2	
Spurstow	6	
Weston	8	
Wrenbury	9	( 5 by direct labour and 4 by
Wybunbury	8	Contract)
	<u>56</u>	
Private enterprise	<u>13</u>	
	<u>69</u>	

Contracts have been entered into and work on the erection of houses on the following sites is now in progress:-

Baddiley	8	
Barthomley	2	
Brindley	10	
Buerton	6	
Cholmondeston	8	(By direct labour)
Church Minshull	4	
Hankelow	5	
Hunsterson	4	
Shavington	<u>20</u>	

c/f 67 (continued overleaf)



	b/f 67
Spurston	5
Wistaston	8
Wrenbury	8
Wybunbury	4
	<hr/>
Total:-	93
	<hr/>

The Government allocation of houses to this Rural District for 1952 has been raised from 45 to 80 and it has been provisionally decided that from this number some 27 Private Building Licences shall be issued.

The remaining 53 houses are allocated as follows:-

Wistaston	48
Baddiley	2
Church Minshull	4
	<hr/>
Total:-	54
	<hr/>

(Application is being made to the Ministry for an additional Licence to cover this).

The conversion of Hutments at Holly Tree Farm Military Camp Site at Walgherton has been completed thus providing accommodation for a further 18 families.

Negotiations have been completed with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for the conversion of Hutments on the Calveley Airfield and under this scheme it is contemplated that some 32 units will be made available.

This scheme is being carried out by Direct Labour and some units will be completed within the first three months of the coming year.

Under the Control of Building, Defence Regulation 56A, licences to the value of £23,150 have been issued in addition to those licences for the erection of private houses.

Applications covering five properties for Grants under the Housing Act, 1949 for improvement works costing £2,732 have been received and approved.

#### ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

- (1) Number of houses found to be infested.
  - (a) Council Houses.....Nil.
  - (b) Other houses.....Nil.
- (2) Method employed when cases do arise is the use of D.D.T.
- (3) Method employed to ensure belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses....Nil.
- (4) Disinfestation is carried out by Local Authority as required by arrangement with that authority.
- (5) Advice is given to occupiers of houses after disinfestation.

#### SCHOOLS.

There was only one school closure during the year, which was Hankelow, from 18th January to 26th January, 1951, on account of influenza.



## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

This matter is dealt with in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, which is attached hereto.

## NUTRITION.

Much good work is carried out efficiently and pleasantly by a loyal band of voluntary helpers at the Clinics at Shavington, Audlem, and Haslington and every endeavour is made to ensure that these centres are not regarded as free food depots but that medical supervision and health education are their real objects.

## SHELL-FISH.

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in the district.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were 31 cases of scarlet fever against 29 last year.

Eighteen cases of Tuberculosis were notified, of which 12 were pulmonary.

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis which had not been previously notified.

There were no cases of Diphtheria.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

### NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1951.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.....	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5.....	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
15.....	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
25.....	5	2	-	2	1	-	-	-
35.....	3	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
45.....	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
55.....	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 & ...	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Upwards.								
	9 & 3		0 & 6		5 & 1		0 & 1	
	12		6		6		1	
Total cases:	18				Deaths: 7			

Number of cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year:-

Males.		Females.	
Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
61	21	52	35

## PREVENTION OF BLINDESS.

No action has been taken by this authority.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

The following is a tabular statement of cases received during the year:-

	Cases.	Removed to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.....	31	6	Nil.
Food Poisoning.....	1	Nil.	Nil.
Pneumonia.....	43	Nil.	11

	Cases.	Removed to Hospital.	Deaths.
Dysentery.....	55	Nil.	Nil.
Whooping Cough.....	126	Nil.	Nil.
Measles.....	414	Nil.	Nil.
Erysipelas.....	5	Nil.	Nil.
Acute Poliomyelitis...	2	2	1
Typhoid.....	1	1	Nil.
Cerebro-spinal-fever..	1	Nil.	Nil.
Puerperal Pyrexia....	1	Nil.	Nil.

Cases of Infectious Disease showing incidence of cases in various age periods among civilians:-

	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Scarlet Fever.	Food Poisoning.	Typhoid.	Pneumonia.	Dysentery.	Whooping Cough.	Measles.	Erysipelas.	Poliomyelitis.	Cerebro-spinal-fever.	TOTALS
Under 1					2	1	13	6				22
1 year +						3	14	21				38
2 years +							26	41				67
3 years +		1			2	4	26	49				82
4 years +		7				2	17	44				70
5 years +		16			4	9	26	202			1	258
10 years +		3			1	1	4	31				40
15 years +		1				6		4	1	1		13
20 years +	1	2		1	2	10		10		1		27
35 years +		1	1		1	6		5				14
45 years +					8	9		1	3			21
65 years +					23	4			1			28
TOTALS:	1	31	1	1	43	55	126	414	5	2	1	680

Conclusion of the Report of the  
Medical Officer of Health.



Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Public Health Department,  
Stapeley House,  
Nantwich.

11th July, 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the Nantwich Rural District Council,  
Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending the 31st December, 1951, which is the seventeenth I have had the privilege of preparing for your consideration.

The work of the Public Health Department has proceeded satisfactorily during the year in spite of staff difficulties, and the fact that Dr. Thorburn's position was not immediately filled. In this connection I would like to record that valuable advice and assistance was forthcoming when necessary from Dr. W. S. Slater, Medical Officer to the Mid-Cheshire Division with whom it was a great pleasure to work.

In Mr. T. H. Aldrich, who left us at the end of July to take up an appointment at Denbigh, we lost a very efficient officer. It will be recalled that we were unable to satisfactorily fill the vacancy and that the appointment was offered to, and accepted by, Mr. J. P. Moulton, a former Clerk in the department who qualified as a Sanitary Inspector prior to undertaking national service in the R. A. M. C., from which he should return during the coming year.

In addition to normal duties the department has undertaken the general administrative work devolving on the Council in connection with recruitment and training for the Cheshire (Nantwich R. D) Division of the Civil Defence Corps, and with the support of other departments of the Council and the Heads of services, peace time establishment has almost been reached in every section of the Corps, with basic training well advanced.

It cannot be denied that the functions of the Nantwich Divisional Health Committee have to be closely knitted with those of this Council's Health Department, but if administration is not to suffer great care will have to be exercised to avoid duplication and overlapping, which can only be attributed to the existence of two Public Health Departments, where one only had to be dealt with before.

Local Government is a matter of teamwork and is such that no department can consider itself self-contained and I have pleasure in stating that the Public Health Department has enjoyed the full co-operation of all the other departments of the Council.

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

The following table sets out the inspections and visits made under the Acts of Parliament coming under the jurisdiction of the department:-

Public Health Act, 1936.....	2,523
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.	332
Housing Acts, 1936-49.....	253
Food and Drugs Act, 1938.....	313
Factories Act, 1937.....	115
National Assistance Act, 1948.....	14
Shops Acts.....	14

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Visits were made in 196 instances in connection with the control of infectious diseases. No serious outbreaks arose which require special comment, but mention must be made of the difficult situation that did arise in connection with an outbreak of scarlet



fever in the Audlem district. This outbreak was very mild and complications resulted from patients being discharged from the Isolation Hospital after only ten to twelve days isolation. Representation was made to the County Medical Officer of Health who took the matter up with the Hospital Management Committee. It will be readily seen that such procedure renders other precautions to prevent the spread of infection in connection with milk supplies, and school contacts, futile, and also gives parents of patients a false feeling of security.

The following cases of infectious disease were notified and appropriate action taken:-

Scarlet Fever...	...	...	...	31
Food Poisoning..	...	...	...	1
Typhoid...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia.	...	...	...	43
Dysentery.	...	...	...	55
Whooping Cough..	...	...	...	126
Measles...	...	...	...	414
Erysipelas	...	...	...	5
Poliomyelitis...	...	...	...	2
Cerebro-spinal-fever..	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	1

Certain sewered parts of the rural area which have had cases of poliomyelitis were chosen for inclusion in the national survey of sewers by swabbing as part of the research drive to establish the means by which this disease is spread, and this work was undertaken by the department on behalf of the Medical Research Council and the Public Health Laboratory Service.

#### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Forthnightly removal of household refuse and the weekly cleansing of pail closets at residential premises and schools has continued satisfactorily by direct labour. Nine Karrier Bantam refuse collectors convertible for collection of nightsoil are operated to implement the scheme.

Maintenance and repair of vehicles is carried out in the Council's workshops at Stapeley House, which is not only the most economic and efficient system, but also minimises time loss in the event of breakdowns.

No difficulty has been experienced in finding suitable sites for refuse disposal by controlled tipping and land reclamation.

Composting of nightsoil from 3,075 pails each week, with straw, is still the best means of disposal available. Straw is obtained free from the Cattle Market at Crewe for use on sites owned by the Council, the occupiers of private sites having to find their own, but having the resulting manure free for their own use. Manure made by the Council is sold at £2-10-0d. per load of approximately two tons delivered within the **external** boundary of the Rural District, £1-0s-0d per ton on site, and 5/s per bale of approximately two cwts delivered. A reduced price of 17s-6d per ton applies on orders of twenty tons and over on site, and arrangements can also be made for bulk purchase.

Salvage sales increased during the year, 180 tons being sold at a value of £1,013.

The labour situation has produced no difficulties, the position having remained constant throughout the year with very few staff changes.

#### REFUSE ACCOMMODATION.

Dustbins have been provided at all schools and the majority of residential premises in the area, and 7,195 bins are dealt with



each fortnight.

Difficulty has been experienced in deciding whether "owner" or "occupier" is responsible for the provision of dustbins in many instances. Publicity given to the many court decisions has complicated matters by making owners reluctant to comply with notices under Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, as an impression is being obtained that it is the occupiers liability. Whilst this may be the decision in certain cases it cannot be taken as general policy in the light of the wording of the Act. Considerable delay in replacement of defective bins has resulted, involving additional work for the Health Department, and the provision of bins in default of notices in several instances.

The large number of legal decisions arising out of the provisions of Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936 make it obvious that this section should be reviewed in the interests of good administration.

#### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Whilst the Council has full legal responsibility for administering this Act, the existence of a separate pest control organisation maintained by the Agricultural Executive Committee, which offers contracts to farmers, complicates administration in an area of this nature where agricultural land and premises predominate.

The Act provides that the Agricultural Executive Committee must be informed of particulars of any premises where notice is served on an occupier of agricultural land (or premises) to enable them to arrange a contract for the necessary treatment, and if they fail in the attempt the local authority must act in default of the notice if necessary.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries does not however encourage local authorities to undertake contract work, but I contend that they must execute the work themselves where default of a notice is concerned as it is the Council who must take subsequent legal action to recover the expense if necessary. This means that a local authority must maintain an efficient organisation but are excluded from making the first approach for a contract. The existence of two distinct organisations must duplicate expense and protract negotiations with the result that minor infestations can easily become major, which is not in the best interests of rodent control.

The legal responsibility for the search of farm lands and premises rests with the local authority but they are precluded from reducing expense by combining it with treatment.

On the other hand the Agricultural Executive Committee are under obligation to search agricultural land and premises for pests other than rats and mice which also tends to overlapping. In Cheshire the Agricultural Executive Committee have undertaken to search for rats and mice in their normal routine investigations, the legal responsibility still resting with the local authority.

From the above it will be seen that the situation is most unsatisfactory from every point of view and is likely to offset the advantages that were envisaged when the 1949 Act was introduced.

The Inspection and treatment of private dwellings and business premises has proceeded satisfactorily, and efficient supervision of local authority properties such as sewage works and refuse tips has been maintained.

There were 332 inspections recorded by the Sanitary Inspectors in the normal course of their routine duties, but it must be remembered that they are at all times on the alert for rodent infestations no matter in what type of premises they are working or which Act they are administering.



There are three rodent operatives employed on a part-time basis who have carried out treatments at 63 individual premises involving them in 924 visits throughout the year.

#### CANAL BOATS.

Several visits have been made to the canals but no boats were inspected.

#### HOUSING.

In my annual reports since the war I have had to call attention to the rapid deterioration of houses generally throughout this area. Lack of normal maintenance during the war years, followed by a national situation which was marked by a serious shortage of labour and materials brought in their train the bogey of cost. Whilst the labour and materials situation has eased somewhat, increased building costs are prompting owners to prefer proceedings under the demolition section of the Housing Act, 1936, on the grounds that repairs are uneconomic in view of rent restriction.

The provision of new houses cannot for sometime offset the demands of wastage due to age, and the many effects of the war years on the housing problem, and the lack of normal maintenance of border line houses is only aggravating an already serious position.

It is true that local authorities have statutory powers under the Public Health and Housing Acts but the practical difficulties of administration under present conditions are such that it is becoming exceedingly difficult to enforce them in the light of economics.

The problems of increasing the number of new houses are still many and difficult and I submit that it would be to the advantage of all concerned to spend even £300 or £400 on a substandard or border line house and so put off for some years the necessity of a new house at very high cost. The occupiers could have the advantage of better living conditions and modern amenities now, if this was done.

So far as rents are concerned, this is a national problem, but one which will have to be faced. Local Authorities know that rents of council houses have to be raised in spite of subsidies from national sources and the local rates. They can do this as they are not subject to the rent restrictions Acts, whilst the landlord of the controlled house is given no encouragement to even maintain his property, in fact it has long since become a burden in a great many cases, it's management showing a loss.

Whilst the obvious remedy lies in the provision of new houses in sufficient numbers to meet general shortage, overcrowding, and replacement, some scheme must be forthcoming in the meantime to maintain existing houses and so make them fit to live in and a letting proposition rather than a more satisfactory bargain by sale in favour of the limited few who can afford the high prices to buy them.

A survey was made during the year of those houses which are subject to demolition orders and are still standing. The results show that 28 are vacant, and that 38 are still occupied. Of the 38 still occupied, 13 are the same tenants as at the time when the orders were made; 3 are in the same ownership but have changed tenancy, 6 have been re-occupied under licence under Regulation 68A of the Defence (General) Regulations, 4 have changed owner and tenant; 2 have changed ownership and are occupied by the new owner, and 10 have changed ownership but are still occupied by the original tenants.

Action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 was taken in 4 cases and demolition orders were made with respect to each of the 4 individual unfit houses concerned.



Action became necessary under Section 58 of the Public Health Act, 1936 with respect to 3 houses which had become dangerous structures.

#### OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There is only one such trade in the area which is a tripe dressing establishment. Regular supervision is given and no nuisance arises from it.

#### MEAT AND FOODS.

Licences have been granted with respect to 22 slaughterhouses, but the policy of centralised slaughter operated by the Ministry of Food has continued to curtail their activities with only a few being used on a part-time basis for the slaughter of pigs for private consumption.

Inspection of bacon and frozen meat at the Regional Cold Store at Gresty Green, Shavington, became necessary on several occasions the most frequent problem being that of contamination during transit. This defect is usually found as a result of staining or contact with chemicals in powder form. In such cases the articles concerned are detained awaiting the report of the County Analyst to whom specimens are forwarded forthwith. Whilst it is not as a rule possible to establish the source of contamination, we were able to do so in one instance with the co-operation of the Cold Store staff. In this case the driver of a vehicle unloading bacon had his attention called to a greyish white powder that was adhering to the hessian wrappings of some of the bales and he stated that his lorry had been previously used for the transport of weed killer in powder form. This was later confirmed by the Manager of the Group of British Road Services concerned. Whilst the analysts report indicated less serious circumstances than were originally feared, the fact that food can be so contaminated during transport and handling was viewed with extreme gravity. The attention of the Minister of Food was drawn to the facts of the case.

The Council adopted the recommendation of the Minister of Food with reference to the taking of dogs into food shops, restaurants, etc, and the appropriate notice has been issued to all concerned who have co-operated fully in the matter.

#### FOODS CONDEMNED.

Inspection of food at shops has resulted in various articles being condemned as unfit for human consumption, being chiefly tinned goods found to be blown or damaged, as follows:-

Fruit...	...	...	201½ lbs.
Milk....	...	...	10 pints.
Meat ...	...	...	80 lbs.
Fish ...	...	...	3½ lbs.
Vegetables	...	...	21 lbs.
Soup ...	...	...	1½ lbs.

In addition to the above there were 56 lbs. of bacon, 113 lbs of meat and 3 lbs. of cheese condemned.

#### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938 - BYELAWS - SECTION 15.

These byelaws, which are for securing cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air came into operation in 1950 and have been very well complied with. The shortage of wrapping material and its high price has, however, made it necessary to remind all persons concerned of Byelaw 5 (a) with respect to the use of materials liable to contaminate food, as it was found that many retailers were resorting to the use of old newsprint and periodicals which cannot be considered suitable in view of their doubtful source of origin and hygienic condition.

# FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The following is a copy of form 572 forwarded by the Ministry of Labour and National Service for the guidance of Medical Officer of Health in preparing that part of their Annual Report which relates to factories.

## Part I of the Act

1. Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	16	20	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	89	95	2	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
T O T A L:	105	115	2	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more 'cases').

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Insp.	Referred by H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1).	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4).	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
a. insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
b. unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
c. Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1	-	1	-
T O T A L:	2	2	-	1	-

Outwork - Sections 110 and 111 - Nil.



## WATER SUPPLY.

The area is under the jurisdiction of the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board, of which the Council is a constituent member. The Board controls water supplies in 68 of the 69 parishes in the rural district the exception being the parish of Peckforton which is mainly supplied by the Trustees of the Peckforton Estate under agreement with the Liverpool Corporation whose Vyrnwy Aqueduct crosses the estate.

The supplies maintained by the Board are sampled by themselves for chemical and bacteriological examination the results of which are forwarded to this Council for information.

With the exception of the parish of Peckforton already referred to, and which is partly supplied from wells, all dwelling houses in 34 parishes have mains supplies from the Board. There are 12 parishes in each of which there is only one house which is not connected to the mains, 5 parishes with only 2; 3 parishes with 3; 4 parishes with 4; 1 parish with 5; 1 parish with 6; 2 parishes with 7; 2 parishes with 9; 1 parish with 10; 1 parish with 13; 1 parish with 18; and 1 with 30, being Wirswall which has only just had mains extensions. In Peckforton, where there are 42 dwelling houses, 30 are supplied from the Liverpool main; 8 have a tap supply inside the house from a private supply, the remainder having wells. There are 6 houses at Blakenhall which have a piped supply from the British Railways Reservoir, 2 at Wettenhall from a private source, 4 at Burland, and 3 at Dodcott, all having tap supplies inside the house.

Of the 161 houses not supplied by the Board, 53 therefore have tap supplies inside the house from private sources leaving 108 which are supplied from wells and springs etc.

As far as can be ascertained there are 21 premises supplied from standpipes - 3 at Faddiley, 3 at Sound, 1 at Doddington, 4 at Audlem, 1 at Burland, 2 at Norbury, 3 at Wrenbury, 2 at Hatherton 1 at Church Minshull and 1 at Hunsterson.

Sampling of private supplies has been carried out during the year and appropriate action taken. It is hoped to commence in the near future a detailed survey of all wells with sampling as required with a view to mains supplies being provided where available.

## ICE CREAM.

There are 36 premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, of which 31 are for the sale of ice cream, and 5 for its manufacture for the purpose of sale. One of the latter using the pasteurisation process.

Regular inspection of these premises was made, and the standard of cleanliness found to be good. There were 65 samples taken and submitted to the laboratory at Chester for examination, the tests being methylene blue, and organisms of faecal origin.

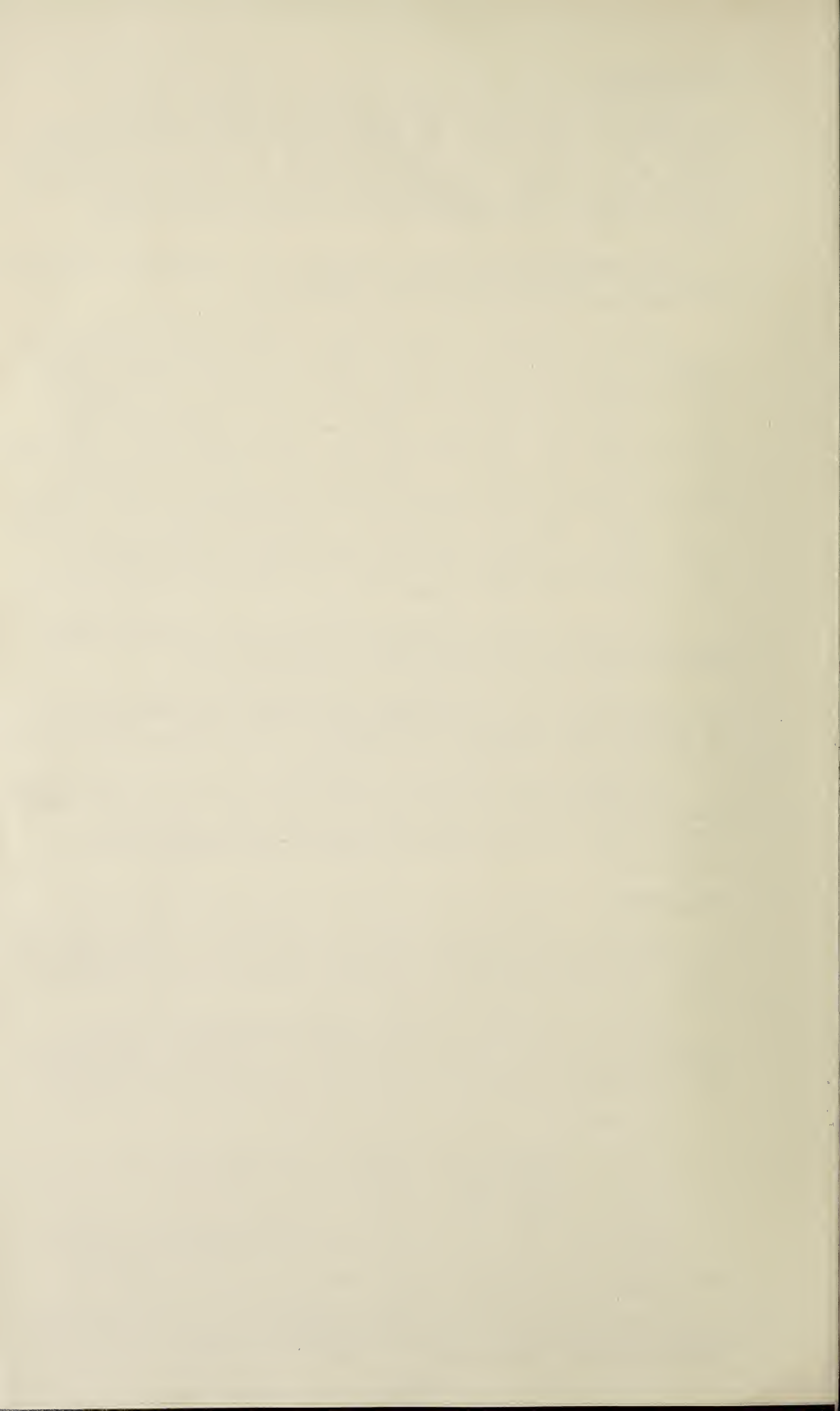
The samples were graded as follows:-

Grade I.....	47
Grade II.....	12
Grade III.....	4
Grade IV.....	2

Grades one and two can be considered satisfactory results.

Organisms of faecal origin were found in 3 samples.

Co-operation with other local authorities and the trade has been maintained and has no doubt produced a higher standard of cleanliness and efficiency.





NOTICES AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Public Health Act, 1936;

Preliminary Notices served.....95  
Preliminary Notices complied with.67  
Statutory Notices served.....16  
Statutory Notices complied with... 7

In four cases application was made successfully to the Justices for Nuisance Orders under Section 94. In one of these cases a fine of £2-0s-0d was imposed and when the owner concerned failed to comply with that order he was fined £5-0s-0d and costs, the Council executing the works in default. In another case the owner was fined £3-0s-0d and costs. Costs were awarded in the remaining two cases.

Applications under Section 58 with respect to dangerous structures were made with respect to three cottages. In two cases orders for demolition were made, and an order for reconstruction in the third.

In two cases work was executed in default of notices under Section 45 with respect to defective closets.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938:

There were four preliminary notices served under this Act and no statutory notices served.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN. S. TOWNLEY. M.S.I.A.,  
A.M.Inst.P.C.,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

